

University of Saskatchewan
Department of English
Ph.D. Field Examination

Ph.D. students are required to take this examination to establish that they have sufficient understanding to conduct advanced research, teaching, and supervision in their identified field. The following lists comprise the areas in which the Department of English has set readings for Ph.D. students: American, Cultural Studies, English-Canadian, Indigenous Literature, Literary Theory, Literature by Women, Medieval, Modern and Contemporary British and Irish, Nineteenth-Century British, Postcolonial and Global South Literatures, Renaissance, Restoration/Eighteenth Century.

By **31 May of the first year of the doctorate**, the student must inform the Graduate Chair in writing of their intention to complete the Field Examination. This notification will include:

1. the student's choice of a departmental Fields Reading List (see above) representing two-thirds of the readings for the Field Examination;
2. the Candidate's List of readings constituting the final one-third of the readings, drafted in consultation with the Supervisor; and
3. the names of three faculty members comprising the Field Examining Committee who are to be consulted in the development of the Candidate's List of readings and who will set and evaluate the written and the oral components of the examination.

A meeting of the student with the Field Examining Committee will be convened by the Supervisor in May of the first year of the doctorate to facilitate this process. By **31 January of the second year of their doctorate**, all Ph.D.s are expected to complete the Field Examination.

Note: a candidate may choose to be examined in an area for which there is no list. Should this option be chosen, the candidate (in consultation with the Supervisor) will propose an area to the Graduate Committee at least twelve months before the examination is to be taken. If the Graduate Committee accepts the proposal and if three faculty members are willing to serve as examiners, the Ph.D. student (in consultation with the Supervisor and the Examining Committee) will prepare a reading list comparable in dimensions to those in areas for which set lists exist. At least six months before the examination is to be taken, this reading list is to be submitted to the Field Examining Committee for approval.

The candidate may write the examination either on one day (9:00-12:00, 1:30-4:30) or in two three-hour blocks on successive days. No aids are permitted in writing the examination. No less than a week and no more than two weeks after writing this examination, the candidate will attend an oral examination of no more than two hours' duration. This oral examination will be convened by the Graduate Chair (or designate) and be conducted by the three faculty examiners who set the written portion. In this oral examination, special attention may be paid to the candidate's own contributions to the reading list, especially as they relate to the candidate's dissertation topic, but all readings and written responses may be addressed.

The written component of the Field Examination must receive a pass before the oral component can be taken. Following the oral, an overall grade is assigned: Pass with Distinction, Pass, or Fail. If a Fail is assigned, the student may repeat the examination within three months of the initial examination. If repetition of the examination is necessary, it is usual that both the written and oral parts are required; the Field Examining Committee has discretion to require, however, that only the oral be retaken.

MEDIEVAL

All students must have read the items in lists 1-3, either list 4 *or* 5 in consultation with the supervisor, and list 6 in consultation with the supervisor.

Appropriate editions (or, where necessary, translations) of all texts should be chosen in consultation with the supervisor.

Students who have chosen to specialise in Old English should read Old English items in the original language. Students who have chosen to specialise in Middle English may read Old English texts in translation. Examiners may require evidence of familiarity with Old English on the examination if they deem it appropriate.

1. Core English list

- *Beowulf*
- 3-4 short Old English prose pieces: Alfred's Preface to Gregory, a homily (Wulfstan or Ælfric), selections from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Bede's account of Cædmon
- 5-6 shorter Old English poetic texts: *The Wanderer*, *The Seafarer*, *The Dream of the Rood*, *The Battle of Maldon*, *The Wife's Lament*, *The Phoenix*
- *The Owl and the Nightingale*
- 1 Middle English verse romance: e.g. *King Horn*, *Sir Orfeo*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
- 1 devotional work, e.g. the *Boke of Margery Kempe* or Julian of Norwich's *Revelations*
- Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*
- Langland, *Piers Plowman*, B-text
- Selections from Malory's *Morte Darthur*
- 1 early medieval play

2. Core Non-English list (read in translation)

- Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*
- Geoffrey of Monmouth, *History of the Kings of Britain*
- *Le Chanson de Roland*
- Chrétien de Troyes: any one of the romances
- Marie de France: 3 lais
- the *Mabinogion*
- Dante, any one of the three books of the *Commedia*
- *Njals saga*

3. Core secondary sources

- J. A. Burrow, *Ricardian Poetry* (London: Routledge, 1971)
- Mary Carruthers, *The Book of Memory* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1990)

- M. C. Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record*, 3rd ed (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012)
- Raymond Clemens and Timothy Graham, *Introduction to Manuscript Studies* (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2007)
- E. R. Curtius, *European Literature and the Latin Middle Ages* (New York: Pantheon, 1953)
- Jocelyn Wogan-Browne et al, eds. *The Idea of the Vernacular* (University Park: Penn State UP, 1999)

4. Old English supplementary list

- The rest of the contents of the four major poetic codices (the Exeter Book, the Vercelli Book, the *Beowulf*-MS, the Junius MS)
- *Apollonius of Tyre*
- At least 4-5 more homilies
- The Old English Boethius

5. Middle English supplementary list

- *Ancrene Wisse* (Prologue, parts 2-4, part 7)
- The rest of the poems in MS Cotton Nero A.x
- Chaucer, *Book of the Duchess*, *House of Fame*, *Parliament of Fowls*, *Troilus and Criseyde*
- Henryson, *The Testament of Cresseid*
- At least 2 more medieval plays

6. Additional texts set by the candidate in consultation with the supervisor.